

# IU NEWSLETTER

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## AN I-YOU CHAT

Off the coast of Iceland an upheaval takes place in the ocean. Great masses of matter are spewed up from an underwater eruption. The mass starts forming an island, but the ocean batters it furiously. Large chunks slide back into the sea and eventually the ocean swallows up the whole mass.

Another upheaval takes place and another island attempts to form. There is another battle with the sea. Some pieces fall away, but the island is assisted by additional masses that get thrown up. Enough earth-matter is there to solidify before the ocean can dissolve it. The island has succeeded in staying in existence, and it even becomes enlarged. The ocean then begins to cooperate with it and its currents bring life to it. Shell-fish find a haven on its shores. This attracts birds who carry seeds with them and deposit them on the island with their droppings. The wind carries more seeds and plant life begins. The island has advanced to being an ecological entity and has earned a place in the world.

Yet another upheaval nearby churns up more matter, but it turns out to be another defeat by the ocean. No matter; there is still one island to show for all the struggles.

A comparison may be made with our efforts to establish a Henry George movement. The underwater eruption may be compared to the impetus to get the Georgist philosophy to emerge into the world. The earth-masses are the converts we make and the island in formation is our movement. The ocean is the influence of the world. Without sufficient matter and cohesiveness, the chunks slide into the sea; that is, the converts become absorbed by the world and its many concerns, and so the movement crumbles. With enough mass and strength, the movement is able to hold together, and the world begins to work with it instead of against it. Life is attracted to it and a diverse system can be built up.

Many efforts have gone into the Georgist movement. From its earliest days, an untold amount of thought, energy and money have been expended on disseminating the ideas and getting them adopted. Yet here we are still battling the ocean.

There is scarcely an idea or proposal that can be thought up that has not been tried at some time in the history of our movement. Nearly all the ideas have merit. But we need more "mass" and "cohesiveness." We somehow have to struggle to build up, to increase our converts and keep them attracted to the continuing effort.

Let us cultivate our island!

Robert Clancy  
Editor